

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin

Volume 3

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Issue #1

CHANGES

This issue marks a turning point for this Bulletin. The long delay since Issue 18 was mainly due to the tidal wave of 50 MHz F2 propagation and activity which swept this planet in late October and most of November, swamping your editor. This revealed some structural flaws in the Bulletin, which had been designed "by committee." It tried to cover the universe of 6m, whilst also having the most up-to-date DX tips.

As observed by Harry long ago, there are many kinds of 6m information which need coverage, and just as many viewpoints among subscribers about the best mix of content, size, frequency, and cost. For example, Reader X mentioned that he doesn't save the Bulletins, a shock to your editor, but undoubtedly representative of some proportion of the readership. At the opposite extreme, Reader Y wrote that the Bulletin ought to function as a global propagation archive, so that in future sunspot cycles, he can use back issues for research. If we printed every propagation report, the resulting size and cost of the Bulletin would drive Reader X away. Another problem is that many incoming propagation reports lag the events by 2 months or more. Thus a full propagation survey would mean that any co-published DX tips would be stale by the time they hit print.

The solution, which is being put in place starting with this issue, is to divide everything into two sets. One consists of the DX tips, particularly DXpedition announcements, beacon changes, and the other country-by-country activity information. The other set contains items with less time value, such as propagation summaries, DXpedition results, essays, and equipment tips.

Each of these two sets will be published separately. While this must be regarded as experimental, the plan is to publish the DX tips on a punctual basis, and the other material as funds and time allow. Each will be under the same masthead, and numbered consecutively as before. Another option that can be decided on later would be to have separate names, subscription lists, and postal classes for the two sets of material, as done with Chod Harris' DX Bulletin and DX Magazine.

Many of you have asked that I continue to give priority to "setting the table" on 28885, even when it results in Bulletin delays. Certainly the 6m DX flood of 1991 was in large measure a result of 28885 activity. This is a role that no other Pacific station is willing and able to fill, and one in which I thrive. In various ways, that service is enabled by this Bulletin and its contributors.

I thank you, the contributors and readers, for your patience and support since the last issue, and I hope you will continue to bear with Victor and me while we try to find the most efficient formula. As always, your opinions are welcome, and will be factored into that formula.

Enclosed in this issue is a short-form beacon list. The flurry of planned beacon start-ups makes this necessary, so that beacon builders can choose a reasonably clear frequency. Harry Schools will continue to produce the full-data Beacon List.

DX Operating

From Mike Cherry VE7SKA: Please heed a plea from those of us who are new to 6m and wish to work as much DX as possible. It seems that ragchewing with rare DX stations during "30-second specials" is a bit of a problem with some of our locals. I've also heard this complaint from some U.S. ops with whom I've talked via Es. PLEASE, fellow 6m ops - exchange calls, grids, reports, and 73's. Remember, others are waiting to work the DX too. On three recent occasions during "30-second specials" well-meaning locals have taken time to ragchew with VK3's, KH6's, etc., which has robbed some of us new guys a chance to work a needed one. I know it's tempting to yak away with the DX but I refrain from doing so in order to benefit my fellow 6m DXers. I'm not advocating unfriendliness, just recommending contest-style contacts during F2 openings to these latitudes where 6m F2 is a rare event.

[Well put, Mike! 6m openings on most paths occur less than 1 percent of the time, so 50 MHz is the *least* suitable place for idle chitchat via ionospheric propagation. If you really want to ragchew with a DX station, write him a note and set up a sked on some HF band. It is also incumbent upon us, the DX stations, to move things along quickly. Most ops are very good about this, but there are a few who need the occasional gentle reminder.—Ed.]

A Limerick for Cycle 22

by Chip Angle, N6CA

*While tuning six meters one day,
A strong station was heard to say:
Keep offa one-ten, cuz the DX is in,
Keep your rag-chewin outa my way!*

Poem given to G7DDT/P, upon his return from the UKSMG contest, by his daughter Julie (tnx Six News):

*He's radio crazy, he's radio mad!
It would be quite funny, if it weren't so sad.*

*Is he blond or is he grey,
It really is quite hard to say.*

*I don't know when I saw him last,
It was a while back, in the past.*

*I know he's there, I hear the sound
When he moves his gear around.*

*I've grown up now, he does not know.
It won't be long before I go.*

*I'm leaving home, that's why it's sad,
I'd love to say good bye to Dad!*

NEWS OF OCEANIA

American Samoa: Ian 3D2PO has announced his tentative plans to spend the last week of March at KH8. More details later.

Non-Fiji: The 3D2PO callsign is being used by a pirate "to the north of Malta." A certain 9H station worked what he thought was 3D2PO only to have it confirmed the following day that the genuine Ian had not been active at all on the date mentioned. Tnx G4UPS. Also note that 3D2PO does not work any CW on 6m.

Kermadec: Ron ZL1AMO is planning a 1992 trip to ZL8; no other info yet. Tnx TDXB. Perhaps the ZL 6m group could see if 6m can be included?

Kure: The KH6JEB/KH7 operation was postponed due to flight unavailability, and it actually began on November 26, for two weeks. Running a continuous voice keyer on 50.120, Rick did work some Pacific goodies, such as V63, T30, V73, KH2, plus VK (Perth, even), ZL, JA, and KL7. Sadly, after several trips to Kure, Rick has yet to work any of the contiguous 48 states, or Canada. The operation ended on December 13. Rick says he will probably be able to get to KH7 once more in March or April. Kure is slated to be handed over to the Interior Department for conversion to a nature preserve, and future ham operations may be scarce. Also, both KH7 and KH4 may revert to the state of Hawaii, and their DXCC status deleted, per the DX Bulletin.

Midway: KH4AE is reported to have had at least one extensive opening into western Europe (OH, DL, etc.) this season. His bearing was 330 degrees, which is a 20-30 degree skew westward of direct. No other details are available, in fact I'm still trying to get details for his early-1991 European openings. He has a Novice or Technician license, so cannot liaise on 28885, but is said to be active on a maritime mobile net on 28313. The military base on Midway may soon close, per TDXB.

Nauru: Brian C21BR is now equipped with 6m gear provided by VK4APG and transported/demonstrated by Jack T30JH/V63JH/VK2GJH. At last report, Brian had yet to install the antenna. The rig consists of an IC-551 and 100 watt amp into a 5-element, 0.6w/ yagi, and a keyer may be used on 50.095 MHz. Tnx VK4APG.

Papua-New Guinea: Pete P29CW is newly QRV on 6m. He runs an IC726 into a quad loop, and the location is in the eastern highlands.

NEWS OF ASIA

Asiatic Russia: At presstime, JG2BRI and JI1DLZ were in or near Vladivostok, operating as EK0JA. They showed up briefly on 28885, but it is unknown if they worked anyone on 6m. Reportedly they were only allowed on 6m during the period 1800-2100 UT, when local R-1 TV was silent.

Hong Kong: During an opening to Europe on October 19, Mike Vestal VS6WV gave his QSL route as via P.O. Box 5764, Hong Kong, instead of via his manager K0TLM. Tnx G4UPS. Probably either route is okay for 6m QSLs; no problems have been reported with K0TLM.

Japan: The rare grid PL14, Hateruma Island, Okinawa (just east of Taiwan), was activated from November 1-5 by Nori JI1CQA and JI1PXZ. The log shows QSOs with BV, DU, KH2, V73, VK4, ZK1s, CE, ZP, PY, CN, and 4X.

Only heard were KH3, FR5, and SV. Another DXpedition will take place here in March and April. QSLs go to Noriyuki Ito, 1-4-10 Higashi-Magome, Ota, Tokyo 143, Japan.

Macau: Steve KU9C was noted on October 26-28 operating on 6m as XX9SW. QSL route is P.O.Box 5953, Parsippany NJ 07054.

Nepal: Mike VS6WV went on another trip to Katmandu, from December 18 to 31. He used Father Moran's callsign 9N1MM, with priority given to 80/40m CW, but 6m gear was on hand.

Ogasawara: JD1BFI made some western U.S. DXers happy in the big opening of October 20. Tnx JL1IHE. His QSL route is Hiroyoshi Sugiura, Ogasawara Marine Ranch, Chichijima, Ogasawara, Tokyo 100-21, Japan. Telephone is 81-4998-23333, or FAX -23334. Tnx JA1VOK via N6AMG.

South Korea: Jack N6XQ passes the following: "A friend of mine is working over there and knows someone with 6m gear who would welcome a phone call if the band looks like it's open. His name is Chi Yound Chang, and his call is HL1KSY. He runs HL0LHS, the club station at the Lotte Hotel, and works on the premises. The equipment is a TS680 and 6-element quad at 150 meters (must be atop the hotel). The club station phone is 011-82-2-7598485 or -7597457. FAX is 7594594. If no club member answers, a Japanese prompt will come on and a voice mail message may then be left. I am told the voice mail is retrieved regularly. QSL route is Lotte Hotel, 1 Sogong-Dong, Chung-Ku, Seoul, Korea."

NEWS OF NORTH AMERICA

Alaska: Newly active on 6m is NL7HT in the grid BP14, in Galena, Alaska. He has a new TS690 and has been checking in occasionally on 28885.

Bahamas: KM1E is operating /C6A until January 15, and again throughout March. He has been liaising on 28885. QSL to Bill Wiseman, P.O.Box 120, Woolwich, ME 04579.

Canada: David VY2DCS is a new 6m op in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. He is using a TS-690, and is said to be eager for 6m DX. Tnx KA2RDO.

Over in British Columbia, Mike VE7SKA sends this partial list of VE7's who are active on 6m. CN89: VE7BLF, VE7HCE, VE7HDJ, and VE7XF. CN88: VE7FEI, VE7SKA, and soon VE7FEI. DN29: VE7KPB. DN19: VE7FQM. DN09: VE7PRC and VE7SIX. CO91: VE7AFB. Also, club stations VE7UBC and VE7VHF (both in CN89) have 6m gear but no experienced 6m ops. Mike observes that there is relatively little participation on 28885 by Pacific Northwest 6m ops but that he will soon be able to transmit there, and expects VE7FEI and VE7HCE to help out as well.

Clipperton: I have no hard information about this as yet, but reportedly there are two separate DXpeditions planned here in the near future. Joel N6AMG says that he has been invited to participate in one of these, but that he cannot; instead, he plans to send his 6m equipment along with the group. More later.

El Salvador: Jack N6XQ and Chip N6CA have provided an IC-551D, 100 feet of coax with connectors, and a new Cushcraft A50-5 yagi for use by Andy YS1AG. FB! Andy's QSLs go to his Callbook address, good for the last 25 years.

Grenada: J37AE showed up on 28885 on November 27, and stated that he'll be on 6m soon. An IC551 is on hand, and a beam is ready to be installed.

Jamaica: Dick N4HSM and WS4F operated /6Y5 from November 14 to 18. QSLs go to their home calls. Joe W3JO arrived on November 17 for a separate operation, and also can be confirmed to his home call.

Mexico: Bernardo XE2HWB continues to keep La Paz on the 6m map, when TVI allows; on October 21 he worked 25 JA's (a difficult path). His QSL info is correct only in the 1991 Callbook supplement, and is as follows: L. Bernardo Gonzalez M., P.O.Box 674, La Paz, Baja California Sur, CP 23000, Mexico.

Navassa: N0TG, WA4DAN, and KW2P will activate KP1 on January 17-23. They will have a "690" (FT- or TS- ?) and 5-element beam for 6m. Tnx KP2A.

St. Pierre et Miquelon: Harry KA3B had high hopes for a DXpedition here in late November, but a last-minute change in French licensing procedures made this impossible. Harry is in touch with Ron VE1KM, who lives in St. Pierre and works for Air St. Pierre. Ron is said to be VHF-oriented, and enjoys the esoteric side of ham radio, so he may be a good candidate for a "surplus" 6m rig. Also, K1LPS notes that FP5HL has had a modified/improved Swan 250 for almost 10 years, but has yet to put it to use.

United States: Lee K3VLQ writes: "The no-code Technician-Light license has brought more people to 6m in my local area (EN92). Some are lids, but several are first class ops who have terrific backgrounds in electronics. One in particular is Fred N2LXD of Ripley, N.Y., who runs a gallon and has started a Sunday night net at 2030 EST on 50.125. His dad was K2ZYX, a Silent Key who was active on 5 and 2.5 meters."

In other U.S. news, some apparent pirate activity was reported during a 6m opening on November 14 between Europe and the east coast. W1AO was one callsign being used, which I am told is not a valid call. In the same opening, K7KV was heard working Europeans at a time which was 2 hours prior to Dave's sunrise; Dave himself states that he has been receiving QSLs for that opening, but that he has not worked/heard any Europeans this season. Tnx G4UPS and W3XO.

NEWS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Aruba: George P43FM has been active on 6m and 28885 in the last few weeks. His home call is PA3FM, and he runs 120 watts to a 5-element yagi. He expects to be on Aruba through March or April. QSLs go to his home call, unless there is some urgency, in which case they can be sent c/o SAV 186A, Aruba.

Bolivia: Harry KA3B has purchased an FT690R for Glenn CP6BY to use mobile. Glenn is on the road quite a bit, all over Santa Cruz, and will use this rig as his exclusive means of communicating with his XYL Judy CP6AK. Thus they will be monitoring 6m almost 18 hours/day. Wonder if they'll be on 110, hi.

Brazil: Don PY5ZBU, in a chat with G4UPS on November 17, stated that he now has 131 countries confirmed on 6m. It was Don who reportedly lost more than 100 QSL cards en route to ARRL for the world's first 6m DXCC application. Oddly, he has not been heard once in the past 3 years on 6m or 28885 by your editor, who has a 6m pipe-line into PY5.

Peter PY5CC now has a permit to use a new callsign for his CW keyer: PY5XX. He has a new QSL card with all of his calls—PY5CC, PY5XX, PT9ZZ, and PP5XX, with a blank space for inserting other calls. Peter now requests that direct QSL cards are now sent only to his Matinhos address: Mr. Peter Z. Sprengel, P.O. Box 7, Matinhos, PR 83260, Brazil.

Chile: Kevin XQ3SIX has uncovered some details for the now-famous 47.9 MHz "elevator music" indicator. There are two transmitters, each running 1 kilowatt of wideband FM into a vertical dipole. One is in Santiago, and the other is in Vina del Mar. Observations show that it has a sub-carrier 65 kHz on either side of the main program, but that subcarrier seems to have the same music as the main channel. The modulation lapses to just hum and noise sometime around 0400-0500z, but the carrier does remain on all night.

Colombia: Rick HK4BHA is now active on 6m, and occasionally on 28885. He runs about 50 watts, and recently was worked as far as V73AT. His QSL info is P.O.Box 50405, Medellin, Colombia.

Cuba: CO2KK says that he hopes very soon to be joined on 6m by Bob CO7RG. Arnie is helping out with the antenna. Tnx G4UPS.

Ecuador: HC5R QSL's go via W7EJ. Tnx VE1XDX.

Fernando de Noronha: Chip N6CA is preparing a solid-state amplifier for PY0FF. This will be hand-carried to Andre by his manager W9VA when he goes there for a February contest.

French Guiana: Three new stations have been active here recently. Jack FY3FL says his QSL route is P.O.Box 305, Kourou, but rumors say he's not licensed. Patrick FY3FV tells some contacts to QSL via bureau, tells others to QSL to Box 999, Cayenne, and tells others no QSLs are available! He is evidently a beginner with DXing, and needs extra patience with CW. Yves FY5FW is active with a vertical, and soon a beam; QSL via F1LZN. Tnx XQ3SIX, HC5K, and others.

Galapagos: Ted HC5K spent about 5 days in late November on Isabella Island in the Galapagos. He handed out grid EI49 to many in North America, using just 5 watts, battery-powered, to a quad. He was asking for direct QSLs to his home call.

Guyana: The recent DXpedition by G4SMC and G4CCZ using the callsign 8R1/G4SMC resulted in 41 different countries being worked on 6m. Tnx G4UPS. Anyone having difficulty securing a QSL for this operation should note that the Callbook address is not correct. Cards should go to: K. R. Diamond, c/o SMC Radio Club, School Close, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate, Eastleigh, Hants, S05 3BY, United Kingdom, or via G4CCZ. Tnx VE1XDX.

Netherlands Antilles: QSL's for the recent PJ4/WA3LRO operation go via K2SB. Tnx G4UPS.

Paraguay: Active in November was Trey WN4KKK/ZP5. He didn't know his grid but said that QSLs go via AA5BT.

Peru: Darrell OA8ABT/AJ5T will return for another year in Peru, but he has already given up on Cycle 22 (why??) and sold all his 6m gear. No 6m activity was reported from OA4ZV or any other Peruvian in the last few months.

Uruguay: CX4HS, who is one of the two most active 6m ops in Uruguay, says that his P.O.Box is constantly being pillaged. He asks that QSLs go instead to his street address which will appear in the 1992 Callbook. Tnx VE1XDX.

NEWS OF EUROPE

Albania: After a couple of weeks of rumor and speculation, at last ZA1A made their first contacts on 6m on October 5-6, working 14 countries on this first try. This particular training DXpedition is now QRT, but other groups were expected in November. Tnx G4UPS.

Andorra: A special 6m permit is being sought for a major DXpedition here in 1992. Tnx GJ4ICD.

Austria: Many stations have experienced difficulty in obtaining a QSL from Kurt OE2UKL, due to the fact that Kurt was OE5UKL until recently. His new address to go along with his new prefix is: Kurt Ullmann, Sonnenweg 13, A-5162 Obertrum a See, Austria. Tnx G4UPS.

Czechoslovakia: Ted G4UPS received a phone call from OK on November 11 stating that OK operators would have access to the 6m band from December 15. The basic details are expected to be the same as for the DL stations, with some restrictions possible in the OK1 and OK2 areas because of TV stations.

Estonia: The following was received from ES5MC via SM7AED: all amateurs in Estonia are permitted to use 50 MHz at once. Maximum power is 200 watts ERP, except in the Tallinn area where it is 50 watts ERP. Frequency allocations are 50.0-50.5 MHz for CW; 50.1-50.5 MHz for SSB, and 50.2-50.5 for FM. Per G4UPS, ES5IT has already been heard by SM7FJE via meteor scatter.

Some results of the August ES0SM DXpedition via G4UPS: 525 QSOs in 111 squares, 10 fields, and 26 countries. These were OH, SM, LA, OY, OZ, PA, LX, ON, G, GM, GI, GW, GD, GJ, GU, EI, F, OE, I, ISO, YU, YO, 4U1ITU, and the best DX was 9H5EE. All on 50110! QSL cards have already been issued.

Gibraltar: ZB0T QSL's go via DL1SDN. Tnx VE1XDX.

Greece: Combining a list of calls heard by VE1XDX on November 17 with a list of Greek stations worked by your editor in Cycle 22 via long-path, we have the following: SV1AB, SV1DH, SV1EN, SV1IW, SV1OE, SV1UN, SV1AHP, and SV1AHX.

Ireland: Charlie EI5FK has recently moved to a new address. His new direct QSL route is: Mr. Charles Coughlan, 12, Forest Bridge Cres, Wilton, Cork, Republic of Ireland. Tnx G4UPS.

Poland: GJ4ICD writes that it looks as though no SP operations will take place until mid 1992.

San Marino: T70A, the club station, is often on 50.300 at 2000z on Fridays. Tnx DX-NL via TDXB.

Spain: It is now anticipated that the first EA 6m permits could be issued on 1992 January 1. The Spanish PTT published all the (previously reported) details concerning 6m restrictions in the official gazette in September. Tnx EA4CGN via G4UPS.

Svalbard: JW0A was worked on 6m CW by CN2JP on November 13 at 1800. No further info.

Sweden: As of October 1, the Swedish PTT have changed the 6m power limits for stations that are located near to TV transmitters. Within 50 km of a slave TV xmtr or within 150 km of a large TV xmtr: 3 watts ERP. Within 75 km of a slave or 150 km of a large TV xmtr: 50 watts ERP. And within 180 km of a slave or 250 km of a large TV xmtr: 200 watts ERP. Tnx G4UPS.

NEWS OF AFRICA

Botswana: A22BW QSL's go via DK3KD. Tnx VE1XDX.

Burundi: 9U5HU/Didier, is QRV with an FT690R and 4 elements. Tnx F8OP via Six News.

Canary Islands: GJ4ICD says he has just received his 6m DXCC paperwork from ARRL, and they credited him with EA8/G3JVL! Remember the DXer's rule: work it first and ask questions later!

Cape Verde: D44BC's ailing Swan 250 could not be repaired in situ, so it has been brought back to California. There is no prospect of another 6m rig being delivered to D44BC prior to 1992 October, if ever. Tnx N6CW.

Madeira: Cedric CT3FT, who regularly calls in on 28885 to contact Sandy GI4GPC, has been bitten by the 6m bug during his visits to the liaison frequency. He is now awaiting the delivery of a 6m transverter which is on the way from the UK. Cedric will drive the transverter with an FT221R into a 3-element yagi. His locator is IM13, and the QSL route is: C. J. Rourke, Box 86, Porto Santo Is, Madeira, P-9400 Portugal. Tnx G4UPS.

Malawi: Yet another new station is active in this 6m hot-bed, beginning November 15: 7Q7TT, in grid KH74. QSLs go via his home call N6ZZ. Tnx G4UPS.

Mali: On October 26, TZ6VV was reportedly worked by CN8ST. No additional details are available yet.

Morocco: Tarik CN8ST had been off the bands for several months due to family commitments, and apologizes for the delay in getting his logs away to his QSL manager Andy K8EFS. However, in early October Tarik forwarded the logs via G4UPS to K8EFS, and CN8ST QSL cards should now be winding their way around the world. Tnx G4UPS.

A new station from Morocco is now QRV on 6m. Mohamed CN8BA made his first 6m QSOs on November 2; his locator is IM63 (different from CN8ST). His QSL route is direct to: Mohamed Bouhannana, 114, Rue Chabab A Al Alia, Mohammedia, Morocco. Tnx G4UPS.

Penguin Islands: ZS0Z was activated on December 16-23 by ZS6BCR et al. QSLs go to Chris Burger ZS6BCR, P.O.Box 4485, Pretoria 0001, R.S.A. Tnx TDXB.

Rwanda: Further on Hans 9X5NH: his first QSOs were on October 5. His location is KI58bb about 10 km from the center of Kigale, at about 1500 m altitude. Hans is a shift worker so likely to be active during daytimes. His rig is a FT736R into a 5-element "long" yagi 20 m above ground. Hans' home call is DK5SY, and his QSL route is via DJ6EA: Mr. Udo Weber, Sternbergstr 54, D-7406 Moessingen, Germany. Tnx G4UPS.

Western Sahara: On 1991 March 29, several ZS stations including Hal ZS6WB reported working Naama S01A on 6m SSB. Naama gave his locator as IL56. Because Naama was in the Italian portion of the band, and because of the recent experiences of European stations reporting a pirate

using exotic callsigns (usually within the Italian subband), it was thought at the time that the ZS stations had been 'had.' Well, surprise! Both ZS6WB and ZS6AXT have received QSL cards confirming the 6m contacts! There has so far been no explanation of exactly why Naama made only this one excursion to 50 MHz. Then on October 23, Naama came up on 28885, contacted CU1EZ, and QSYed to 50110. No contact was made, but maybe we will be hearing more from the Saharan Arab Democratic Arab Republic in the near future. Tnx G4UPS.

South Africa: Ever wonder what had happened to Rad ZS4AAB? Well, he moved to KG43bx, and his new details are: Mr. Rad Handfield-Jones, ZS6RAD, P.O. Box 2994, Halfway House, 1685 Republic of South Africa. Tnx G4UPS.

Zambia: 9J2HN QSLs go via JH8BKL, but the latter's address in the callbook is not quite correct, and some cards are reportedly not reaching him. The correct address is: Katsuhide Kawase, 1655 Shinkai-Douri 9 Chrome, Teshio-Cho, Teshio-Gun 098-33, Japan. Tnx VE1XDX.

BEACON NEWS

Australia: Ron VK4BRG is now running a solar-powered beacon on 50.0775. It has 1-2 watts into a vertical wire dipole. Location is QG48 and operation is 24 hours.

Canada: Mike VE1XDX should have the new VE beacon on the air very soon. The logic is being made in Jersey by GJ3RAX on consultation with GJ4ICD. The grid will be FN85, and the expected frequency is 50.011. Tnx GJ4ICD. Also, VE2TWO (op=VE2FTR) is being widely heard on its new frequency of 50.0556 (ex-50.089). The location is FN08, and it runs 10 watts into a dipole. Tnx N7JJS.

Fiji: 3D2FJ has been on and off during the past few weeks with equipment problems, but is now running 24 hours/day from its permanent site near Lautoka. The frequency is 50.0842. In its first couple of days on the air, it was already reported in Nova Scotia, Vermont, Colombia, Hawaii, and elsewhere, including via some scatter paths. Current power output is 20 watts into a 2-element bidirectional array beaming NNE/SSW. Eventually it may run as much as 80 watts into stacked M² S loops.

Galapagos: The on-again, off-again HC8SIX machine is was on during most of November. At the moment, the twin emissions are on 50.0804 and 50.0826, but these are subject to sudden changes. Note that this is not FSK; it is evidently a defective oscillator, and both components are keyed simultaneously. There are other, weaker components as well, some of which are keyed and some of which are steady. There is a long pause between the brief ids.

Gibraltar: The good old ZB2VHF beacon is back on the air, per VE1YX who heard it on December 16.

Jamaica: Wenty 6Y5IC says that the old 6Y5RC beacon will be back on the air "any day now." It will run 50 watts into a small yagi, on the frequency on 50.025 (almost the worst possible frequency, with ZP5AA and YV4AB already active there).

Japan: A new beacon is now operating from Hokkaido (northern Japan). The call is JH8ZND, the frequency is 50.480, the locator is QN02tu, and the operator is JH8EKJ. Tnx JA8RC.

Johnston Atoll: Richard KH3AF has begun running a beacon "whenever they're not in the shack," on a measured 50.0629-.0630 MHz. It uses a beam antenna, usually aimed northeast, at present, but an omnidirectional antenna will soon be installed.

Lebanon: The OD5 beacon is nearing completion by Mike G3JVL. When the exciter is finished, it will be shipped to GJ for the final and power supply to be added. Tnx GJ4ICD.

Malta: As of November 9, the 9H1SIX/b was reactivated after several months' silence. It is now running 7 watts to a ground plane antenna, per 9H1PA via G4UPS. Ted lists the frequency as 50.0255 (horrors: see Jamaica above--ed.)

Marshall Islands: Chip N6CA has almost finished construction of a new beacon for V73AT, so that Tim won't have to run his home station in beacon mode any more. It will be on the customary Kwajalein frequency of 50.036 (actually 200-300 Hz above that, per Chip). The message will be "DE V73AT/B RJ38," followed by a few dashes; the speed is a snappy 23 wpm. Tim hopes to place the beacon on one of the outer islands, 40 or 50 miles from him, so it won't impair his own receiver, and then it can operate continuously.

Mexico: A beacon was heard signing XE3WMA on 50.100 in November. No other info, but probably it is not a full time beacon.

Netherlands Antilles: Chet PJ9EE states that the PJ4B beacon has returned as of November 16. It had been damaged by lightning. The nominal frequency is 50.015, locator is FK52tf, and it runs 10 solar-powered watts into a 5/8wl vertical. Tnx N6CL and G4UPS. No reception reports have yet been received; can anyone confirm that it's getting out?

New Zealand: The Greymouth ZL3MHB beacon has been carefully measured on 50.0513. It doesn't seem to get out very well.

Ogasawara: JD1BFI has, on occasion, been running a beacon on 50.0459-.0460.

Papua-New Guinea: Paul P29PL states that his beacon should be running full time early in January. Rex VK8RH is providing a keyer for it, with the message "P29BPL PORT MORESBY Q130."

Philippines: The Manila beacon is now on the air (first heard here, loudly, on December 13). The exact frequency is 50.0080 (squarely atop XE2HWB/b). The message is "DE DX1HB/B PK04" followed by a string of dashes, all delivered lickety-split at about 25 wpm! Al KL7NO commented upon first hearing it (and your editor agrees) that this is too fast for scatter reception; the time dispersion of multipath scatter propagation makes a speed of no more than about 13 wpm desirable for beacons. Nevertheless, it is great to have a beacon now at Manila, a place which has propagation to most of the world at one time or other, and our collective thanks go to Chip N6CA and Louis KG6UH/DU1.

Beacon miscellany from GJ4ICD: the U.K.S.M.G. is urgently trying to recover the following beacons which are not in use or are in need of repair: TF, OX, ZB, and ZS8MI (at ZS6WB). If anyone can help in transporting them back to the UK, please contact GJ4ICD. GJ3RAX

and Geoff will be constructing several new 50 MHz beacons in the new year for TA, Z23JO, and maybe for OK and SP as well. Details later.

Editor's note: we badly need a good beacon in the West Indies. When W6JKV was on St. Maarten in November, he kept popping up on 28885 to ask, "anyone hearing anything from the Caribbean?" But we couldn't answer because there weren't any signals to listen for! Also, there are numerous 6m rigs gathering dust from Anguilla to Grenada, and beacons elsewhere in the world have proven their ability to ignite regional activity. This area is rife with new-country potential for everyone, and will continue to be so into the indefinite future. Alaska also sorely needs a reliable beacon, as there have been no reports of AL7C/b or KL7WE/b in the past year.

EQUIPMENT HELP

Ken W0ETT writes: "You mentioned that KH0AC has just 10 watts. If you can find some other contributors, I would be willing to send some \$ to help buy him an amp. Also, I have an old tube-type 6'n'2 meter transmitter with VFO that I would ship to someone who wants a beacon (assuming whoever gets it can troubleshoot the rig). It supposedly runs 50 watts on CW and AM (converted to FM)."—Ken Anderson, 1470 E. Mineral Place, Littleton CO 80122.

Apparently nothing has yet been done to get a 6m rig to VE8QL (Issue 16). There's still time in this winter season for the far-north F2 propagation that brings OX, VY1, and KL7 into the lower 48 states for so many hours at a time. Rick VE8QL could sure fill a big empty hole, not to mention helping everyone earn that Canada Award. It would be hard to find a better place for a spare Swan 250 or Heath SB-110, etc.—Ed.

YS1ECB is looking for a donation of a Yaesu FTV-650B transverter (to be used with an FT-101E). He also needs a linear amp that can be driven with the FTV-650B. If you can help, please mark the package "Gift--Used--No Value" and ship via First Class mail to Edgar Castro, P.O. Box 01/35, San Salvador, El Salvador. He is also looking for info on European tube PL-529. Tnx KA8SNJ.

POSTSCRIPT FROM K6FV

I received the floppy disk containing the previous part of this newsletter plus the short-form beacon list (which is on page 8) on Sunday, December 29. The postal service really came through. Due to the holidays, I'm not sure when it will get printed and into the mail, but it'll probably be this week.

I hope that you will read and respond to Shel's comments on page 1. Like many other six meter DX'ers, I must be away from the shack from 8 AM to 6 PM or so Monday through Friday. 28885 is of little use to me! What I want is something tangible, something I can study, something that distills weeks of listening into an hour or two of enjoyable reading, something worth the paper it's printed on.

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin was founded by Harry Schools KA3B, is edited by Shel Remington NI6E/KH6, and is published by Victor Frank K6FV. Issued 18 times/year: in the middle of every month, and at the beginning of October, November, December, March, April, and May. Annual airmail subscriptions cost \$20.00 in the US; US\$22.00 in Canada; US\$25.00 elsewhere. Make subscription remittances payable to Sheldon Remington and send to P. O. Box 1222, Kaaau HI 96749, U.S.A. Send reports to the editor via mail or telephone 808-982-5800 between 2000-0800 UT. This Bulletin may be freely quoted, provided that credit is given. All dates and times are Universal Time, and given in ISO/ANSI sequence: year/month/date/time.

What's Your QTH OM?

Your publisher's a avid computer hobbyist. (They used to call them "hackers".) One of his latest realizable fantasies is to create a database of six meter station locations accurate to about 10 km. That's a six digit grid locator or a few minutes of arc. In the U.S.A., hardly anyone knows, let alone uses, grid locator digits beyond 4. In Europe and Japan, six digit grid locators are widely used.

What's it for? I wish to determine path lengths and ionospheric reflection points for some of the six meter DX contacts made last fall (and perhaps next spring). I've got Joel's (N6AMG) logs for CU3 and CN2 on disk, and expect Jimmy's (W6JKV) logs for PJ7 & FS.

And so, if you can find your six-digit grid locator or latitude and longitude to a minute or decimal hundredth of a degree, and/or can find same for active six meter stations and beacons in your area, I'd appreciate your mailing a list of same to me at P.O. Box 762, Menlo Park, CA 94026. If you've moved during the peak of this solar cycle, the valid dates for each QTH should also be included.

What kind of information should six meter amateur stations log to be of most use for an ionospheric postmortem? At the very least, station, time & date. Beam direction, if not direct, and a truthful RST would help an analyst separate scatter from direct ionospheric propagation. Entries such as "FY7THF beacon first heard 579 at 0005Z and last heard 339 at 0300Z" are much more useful than "FY7 beacon heard sometime this afternoon."

I forwarded three pages worth of text from Joel on his expedition to Shel and trust that we may read of these and other DXpedition's results in a newsletter "real soon now."

Solar Geophysical Conditions (Sept-Nov 1991)

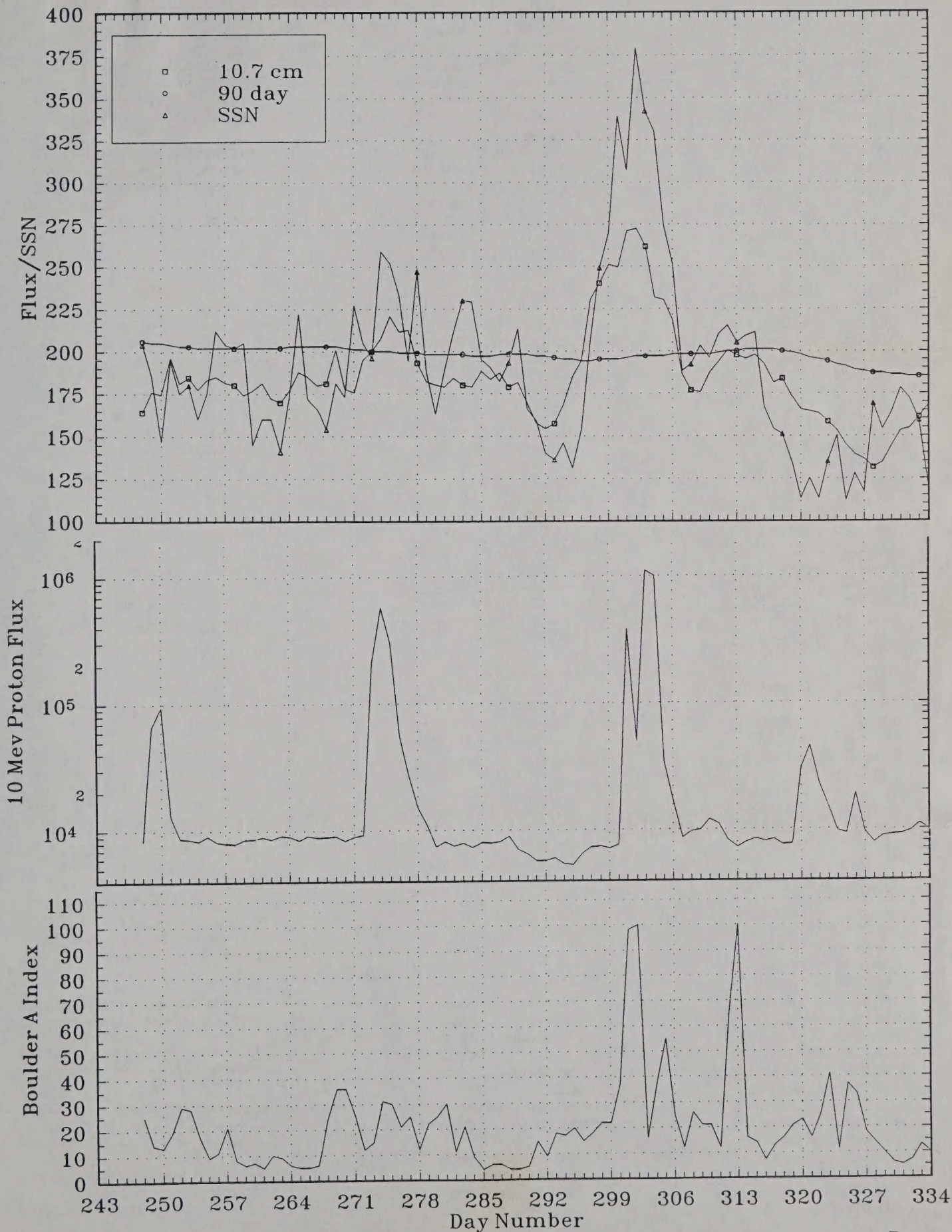
Meanwhile, for those of you who like to compare flux and sunspot numbers; etc., with six meter propagation you experienced during the past fall's DX season, I am printing some preliminary data which I received from Solar Terrestrial Dispatch, who in turn received it from Space Environment Laboratories of NOAA.

The abscissa is the day number, the period is Sept through November 1991, and grid lines are drawn every seven days. The upper set of curves is of daily 10.7 cm radio flux, average of the past 90 days of same, and daily sunspot number.

While we are cautioned that ionospheric critical frequencies vary with sunspot number and 10.7 cm flux only over long-term averages of each, I think it significant that six meter F2 openings at north temperate latitudes decreased drastically during the turn down of the last two weeks of the graph.

The next two curves show the ≥ 10 Mev Proton flux from the solar wind as observed at geostationary altitude, I believe, and the Boulder A-index, which is a measure of the variability of the earth's magnetic field in response to changing circulating currents in the ionosphere.

Fall 1991 Solar-Geophysical Data



The 50 MHz DX Bulletin Short-Form Beacon List

n50.000 GB3BUX
n50.005 f ZS2SIX
(50.005 f H44HIR)
n50.0075 KOGUV
50.0079-81 XE2HWB
50.0080 DX1HB
50.0087 HIOVHF

50.0100 JA2IGY
n50.012 OZ4VM
(n50.0135 CU3URA)
n50.015 S22DH
n50.015 PJ4B
n50.015 4N3SIX
50.0169 JA6YBR
50.0183 f V51VHF
(50.0195 P29BPL)

n50.020 f GB3SIX
(n50.020 CX1CCC)
n50.021 OZ7IGY
50.0215 f FR5SIX
50.0247-53 ZP5AA
n50.025 6Y5RC
n50.025 OH1SIX
n50.0255 f 9H1SIX*
50.0256 YV4AB
50.0269 JA7ZMA
n50.027(0217)ZS6PW

n50.030 f CTOWW
50.0318-21f ZD8VHF
n50.033 UL8---
50.0338 LU8YYO
n50.035 f ZB2VHF*
(n50.036 V73AT)
50.0386-87f FY7THF
50.0399 f SV1SIX

n50.040 f VO1ZA
n50.040 UB7I
n50.042 f GB3MCB
(50.043 YV5ZZ)
50.0430-35 ZL3MHF
(50.0446-47 JR6YAG)
n50.0456 OX3VHF*
50.0459 JD1BFI*
(n50.046 f VK8RAS)
50.0481-83 JA7YYL

n50.050 f GB3NHQ
(n50.050 VE7SIX)
n50.050 ZS6DN
n50.050(0517)LA7SIX*
50.0500-01 FO5DR*
50.0513 ZL3MHF
50.0537-38 VK3SIX
50.0547-48 JA5FFJ*
50.0551 ZS6DN
50.0556 VE2TWO
n50.057 f TF3SIX
(50.057 VK7RSB)
50.0571-73 VK8VF

n50.060 f GB3RMK
n50.060 K4TQR
n50.060 W5VAS
50.0600 PY1AA
50.0600-02 PY2AA
n50.061 K1NFE

n50.061 WBORMO
50.0617-18 KH6HME
n50.062 WA8R
n50.0625 f GB3NGI
n50.0628 KB6BKN*
n50.063 W3VD
50.0630 KH3AF*
(50.0644 KH6HI)
n50.065 WOIJR/KAOCNM
n50.0655 f GB3IOJ
n50.066 WA1OJB
n50.066 KB5KYB
(50.066 AL7C)
50.0661 VK6RPH*
50.0661-64 WD7Z
50.0664 KA5FYI
n50.067 KD4LP
50.0675 N7DB
50.0679 W28D*
50.0683-87 W7US
n50.0685 W4RFR
50.0687-91 K6FV*
n50.069 W4HHK

n50.070 EA3VHF
n50.070 KM4ME
n50.070 KB4UPI
n50.070 KOHTF
n50.070 N4LTA
n50.070 WA7ECY*
n50.070 K4AUG
50.0701 N6CW*
50.0703 W0VD
50.0704 KK4M/7
50.0706 N4MW
50.0717-18f LU1DMA*
n50.072 f KW2T
n50.072 KS2T
n50.074 WB5DSH
50.0742-45 NN7K
50.0747-48 VS6SIX
n50.075 f WB4OSN
n50.075 WB4WTC
n50.075 KB4AXD/2
(50.0752-53 PY2AMI)
50.0753-65 K7IHZ
50.0763 K5ZXE*
50.0764-67 W6SKC/7
n50.077 N5JM*
n50.077 WB2CUS/3
n50.0775 W8UR
50.0775 VK4BRG
50.0776-78 PT7BCN
50.0783 NOLL
50.0790 TI2NA
(n50.079 KF7VA)

n50.080 WB4OOJ
n50.080 SK6SIX
50.0804-41f HC8SIX*
n50.082 VE1MUF*
50.0842 3D2FJ
n50.086 VE2STL
(n50.086 VP2MO)
(n50.0865 LU1MA)

n50.090 TR8CA*
n50.091 f 9L1SL
50.0919-21 HC2FG*
50.0958-62 PY5XX*

50.0984 LU2MFO

50.1020 V51E*

n50.280 PY responder*
n50.314 FX4SIX
n50.321 ZS5SIX

n50.480 JH8ZND
50.4910 JG1ZGW
50.4993 f 5B4CY

n50.904 ZS1STB

(51.0218-26 ZL1UHF)
51.0287 f ZL2MHB

n52.320 VK6RTT
n52.325 VK2RHV
n52.330 f VK3RGL
n52.345 f VK4ABP
n52.370 f VK7RST
n52.420 f VK2RSY
n52.425 f VK2RGB
n52.435 f VK3RMV
52.4400-03 VK4RTL
52.4449-51f VK4RBM
52.4452-53f VK4RIK
n52.450 VK5VF
n52.460 f VK6RPH
n52.465 f VK6RTW
n52.470 f VK7RNT
n52.510 f ZL2MHF

Key:

() = believed off air for a long time, but may return; also planned beacons

n = nominal frequency, unconfirmed by listener measurements.

f = frequency-shift Morse; all others are plain CW.

* = believed less than 100% continuous. This ranges from continuous except when the operator is DXing, to (a few selected) occasional automatic keyers.

Sources:

Harry A. Schools KA3B:
"1991 International 6 Meter Beacon List" (1991 April)

Hatsuo Yoshida JA1VOK:
"Current Worldwide 6m Beacons" (1991 October)

Ron Graham VK4BRG:
"Condensed 6m Beacon List" dated 1991 October 31

Ted Collins G4UPS:
"Abbreviated 6m Beacon List" dated 1991 November 18

Shel Remington NI6E/KH6:
Personal cycle-22 beacon measurements up to 1991 Dec.27